

Hamilton County

Traffic Safety Partnership

P R E S S R E L E A S E

November 19, 2013

Police Adding Extra Patrols to Increase Traffic Safety

NOBLESVILLE – Thanksgiving is one of the busiest travel periods in Indiana and local, county, and state police are adding extra patrols to increase safety on the state’s streets and highways.

“Until December 1, we will have saturation patrols as part of a comprehensive effort to curb impaired driving,” said Hamilton County Sheriff Mark Bowen. “Anyone found to be driving impaired will be arrested. Also, occupants not using seat belts or who are not properly restrained will be cited and given a ticket.”

“In fact, in Indiana, more than 50 percent of fatalities in auto accidents are due to passengers who did not buckle up,” added Sheriff Bowen.

In November 2012, there were 355 alcohol-related crashes across Indiana resulting in 155 injuries and 5 fatalities.

According to Hamilton County Chief Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Andre Miksha, law enforcement agencies from across the state, including the Hamilton County Sheriff’s Department, Fishers Police Department, Carmel Police Department, Noblesville Police Department, Westfield Police Department, and troopers from the Indiana State Police are jointly participating in a statewide effort to crack down on impaired driving and seatbelt enforcement during over the Thanksgiving holiday period.

“Since the crackdown began on November 8, our county’s law enforcement officers have arrested 26 impaired drivers in Hamilton County,” added Miksha.

“If you see someone driving in a manner you suspect of being impaired, there is a high probability you are right,” said Sergeant Jeff Rader, from the Indiana State Police. “Call 911 immediately and report the location, description, and direction the vehicle is traveling. This will

**Prosecuting Attorney
for the 24th Judicial Circuit**

**Hamilton
County
Sheriff's
Department**

**Carmel
Police
Department**

**Fishers
Police
Department**

**Noblesville
Police
Department**

**Westfield
Police
Department**

**Indiana
State
Police**

help officers observe the activity of the suspect and take necessary action to prevent a possible tragedy.”

The officers also noted that vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for kids between the ages of 8 and 15. For families with young children it’s important to have a properly installed child safety seat or booster seat for each child. Parents can visit childseat.in.gov for a list of locations and a toll-free phone number to speak with experts about the proper installation of child safety seats.

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